

Appln. No. 10/004,758

Attorney Docket No. 10541-636

II. Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-21 are rejected and pending; claims 1 and 20 have been amended; claims 8, 18, and 22-33 have been cancelled; and claims 34 and 35 have been added. With the claims amended and the remarks provided below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of all rejections.

Claim Objections

Responsive to the claim objections, claim 1 has been amended to recite "the primary edge" to be consistent with the previously used claim terminology. Additionally, claim 15 has been amended to delete the word "so" in accordance with the Examiner's instructions.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Responsive to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 20 has been amended to recite "the groove" and "the primary edge" in order to consistently refer to the elements of claim 15 from which claim 20 depends.

Further Claim Clarifications

Prior to discussing the cited references, it is believed that a brief discussion on the claims as amended is warranted to clarify that which Applicants regard as the subject matter of the present invention. Claim 34, which depends on claim 15, has been added. Claim 34 recites a one-piece pinion. The specification in the application as filed discloses a "one-piece pinion" in paragraph [0015], and claim 2 in the original application recites a one-piece pinion. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Independent claim 35 has been added. Claim 35 recites the end face being substantially perpendicular to the inner surface. Figures 4, 5, 7, and 8 in the

Appn. No. 10/004,758

Attorney Docket No. 10541-636

application as filed disclose that the end face 50 and the inner surface 32 are substantially perpendicular. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Figures 5 and 8 show non-linear cross-sections near the end face 50. Figures 5 and 8 depict the curvature of the groove 54, and not the curvature of the inner surface 32.

Claim Rejections – 37 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Responsive to the rejections of claim 1-7, 9-17, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), *Johnston* fails to teach each and every element of a device as claimed in the present application. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either explicitly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Johnston* does not disclose a primary edge extending to the end face. The grooves 20 in *Johnston* do not extend to the end face (the face perpendicular to the inner surface 24 and located near the arrow of element 18 in Figure 2 of *Johnston*). Rather, the grooves 20 extend to the chamfered annular end portions 22. (*Johnston*, col. 2, lines 15-16, Figure 2). Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Johnston*.

Claims 2-7 and 9-14 depend on amended claim 1. Thus, claims 2-7 and 9-14 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

As for claim 15, *Johnston* does not disclose a primary edge extending to the end face. As discussed above, the grooves 20 in *Johnston* extend to the chamfered annular end portions 22 and not to the end face. (*Johnston*, col. 2, lines 15-16, Figure 2). Accordingly, claim 15 is not anticipated by *Johnston*.

Claims 16, 17, 19-21, and 34 depend on amended claim 15. Thus, claims 16, 17, 19-21, and 34 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

As for new claim 35, new claim 35 recites that the end face is "substantially perpendicular to the inner surface." For the same reasons mentioned above, new claim 35 is allowable.

Appn. No. 10/004,758

Attorney Docket No. 10541-636

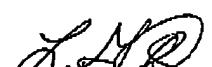
Conclusion

Thus, Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-21, 34, and 35 should be allowed and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

1-12-04

Date



Lawrence G. Almeda (Reg. No. 46,151)
Attorney for Applicants